

conferences, and the team once sang the gay anthem, "Y.M.C.A.," after Johnson had a particularly good game, there was an element of distraction. Merrill said "some kids were nervous and had to be talked to." Masco dropped from 10-1 in 1998 to 7-4, but Pugh attributes that to the loss of last season's quarterback and star running back.

Some problems never did materialize. When younger players complained to Merrill about having to shower with a gay teammate, he would growl, as he would to most complaints, "You're a football player, just suck it up." But then, Masco football players have traditionally never showered at school.

Although Johnson's parents and many of his teachers and coaches think he should go to college in the fall, he said he has decided to "become an activist" for a year and to intern in the network's San Francisco office.

Merrill is going to the University of New Hampshire, without a football scholarship but confident that he will walk on the team.

"I'll know now I'll be able to make it in the real world," he said. "I handled it. I was mature. We were a unit."

Whelan is going to the Rhode Island School of Design in the fall. That "fun guy" he spotted finally met Johnson, at a gay conference. Whelan was right. They liked each other. The fun guy, Michael, became Johnson's first boyfriend, and next month Johnson will take him as his date to the Masconomet senior prom.

The season isn't over yet.

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2000

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 146, I was unable to vote because of travel

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

delays. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

On rollcall No. 147, I was unable to vote because of travel delays. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall No. 148, I was unable to vote because of travel delays. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING MS. MABLE MAXINE WRIGHT OF LOS ANGELES, CA

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2000

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, today I commend and celebrate the accomplishments of Ms. Mable Maxine Wright of Los Angeles, California, before her untimely passing on May 3, 2000. Ms. Mable Maxine Wright is the mother of Timothy Wright who served on my staff in 1997 and 1998. Tim is a fine young man who has gone on to devote his energy to continued public service. His mother, Mable Maxine Wright was a strong lady, who dedicated her life to education and helping people from many different backgrounds and walks of life.

Mable Maxine Wright was born on July 1, 1921 in Los Angeles, California. Mable was the third of four children born to Mattie Mitchell-Brown and Annias Brown. She attended Nevin Elementary, Lafayette Junior High and graduated from Jefferson High School. She married Timothy W. Wright, Jr. on September 14, 1947. Her family includes seven children, Kaaren Drake, Gregory Wright, Phyllis Williams, Timothy Wright III, Janis Bradley, Korliss Robinson and Melrose Rowe; two sis-

ters, Janice Robinson and Dorthy DeHorney; two sons-in-law, Harold Williams and Alonzo Robinson; two daughters-in-law, Evelyn Wright and Dr. Karen Nash Wright; thirteen grandchildren, Felicia, Michael, Erika, Ryan, Larshay, Joseph, Brittany, Ashley, Kristin, Timothy IV, Kouri, Jasmine, and Kelsi; sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, many nieces, nephews, cousins and a host of friends.

Ms. Mable Maxine Wright was the moral compass and center of leadership and determination for her family and community. She was committed to setting and meeting goals towards furthering her career, and helping many others who could benefit from her successes. Mable took college courses at East Los Angeles Jr. College where she received training and later became a Licensed Vocational Nurse. Mable worked at County General Hospital for nine years before moving on to Bowers Manufacturing Company where she retired as a Computer Supervisor.

Mable accepted Christ as her personal Lord and Savior at an early age while attending Hew Hope Baptist Church. She joined Grant A.M.E. Church in 1965 and was a member of the Ladies Usher Board for several years. She was a relentless community builder. Through her life she has learned that living a good life while striving for continued blessings for her family matter and is necessary.

Known as "Precious" to her grandchildren, she especially loved being with her family, and was honored with that desire through the beginning of the next phase which she serves God. My fellow colleagues please join me in honoring the memory of Ms. Mable Maxine Wright, a true beacon of our society.